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VIA ECF AND EMAIL

July 20, 2022

Hon. Analisa Torres
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: *Bilalov v. Gref et al.*, 1:20-cv-09153-AT-JW (S.D.N.Y.)

Dear Judge Torres:

We write on behalf of Defendants Sberbank of Russia (“Sberbank”) and Herman Gref (together, the “Russian Defendants”) and Sberbank CIB USA, Inc. (together with the Russian Defendants, the “Defendants”), to request an extension to oppose Plaintiff’s request for leave to file a third amended complaint (ECF No. 90) (the “Request”). Plaintiff filed his Request on July 14, 2022. Under Your Honor’s Individual Practice Rule II.A.ii, a response is due within five business days, or July 21, 2022.

Plaintiff’s Request is inappropriate and deeply prejudicial to Defendants. Plaintiff has had ample opportunity to present his claims to the Court, through three iterations of his complaint. Plaintiff provides no basis why adding a new defendant to the case is appropriate now, and indeed, Plaintiff’s request concedes that the proposed Third Amended Complaint adding the Russian Federation as a defendant would be supported by no new factual allegations. *See* ECF No. 90 at 2 (“Plaintiffs are not alleging any new facts or theories.”). And Defendants would be prejudiced if required to defend against still another iteration of Plaintiff’s meritless claims, which deficiencies have been fully and extensively briefed to the Court for several months. *See* ECF Nos. 68 & 69 (Nov. 2, 2021 reply briefs in support of motions to dismiss); 80 (Feb. 2, 2022 reply brief in support of Russian Defendants’ motion to dismiss for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction).

Counsel for all Defendants have indicated their intention to withdraw from their representation in this Action. *See* ECF Nos. 86 & 87. Counsel have been authorized to inform the Court that Defendants’ search for substitute counsel is complete, and they anticipate the engagement to be finalized in the coming weeks. Defendants therefore respectfully request the Court, if not inclined to deny leave on the basis of Plaintiff’s Request alone, grant Defendants an extension until August 12, 2022 for new counsel to appear and respond to the Request. No previous requests for adjournment or extension of this deadline have been made.

Mr. Taft, on behalf of all Defendants’ counsel, conferred with Plaintiff’s counsel by phone on July 20, 2022. Plaintiff consents to an extension, but only through August 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /s/ William H. Taft V

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cc: All counsel of record (via ECF)